

HOUSE No. 1464

By Mr. LeDuc of Marlborough, petition of Stephen P. LeDuc and others for passage of a resolve relative to improving the health of children through appropriate school nutrition. Children and Families.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PETITION OF:

Stephen P. LeDuc	Barbara A. L'Italien
Michael J. Rodrigues	Michael F. Rush
Cory Atkins	Kathi-Anne Reinstein
Kathleen M. Teahan	Richard T. Moore
John D. Keenan	Stephen R. Canessa
Martin J. Walsh	Shirley Gomes
Patricia D. Jehlen	Pamela P. Resor
Michael E. Festa	Susan C. Fargo
Elizabeth A. Malia	Joyce A. Spiliotis
Patrick M. Natale	Mark J. Carron

In the Year Two Thousand and Five.

RESOLVE TO IMPROVE THE HEALTH OF CHILDREN THROUGH APPROPRIATE SCHOOL NUTRITION.

- 1 *Whereas* A child who is physically healthy is more likely to be
2 academically motivated, alert, and successful. Healthy eating also
3 plays an important role in learning and cognitive development.
4 Poor diet has been found to adversely influence the ability to learn
5 and to decrease motivation and attentiveness.
6 *Whereas* Overweight and obese children are at higher risk for
7 long-term health problems, including cardiovascular disease,
8 stroke, hypertension, high blood pressure, gallbladder disease,
9 type 2 diabetes, and certain cancers. The lives of overweight
10 youth are often also affected by discrimination, psychological
11 stress, poor body image, and low self-esteem. Obese children are
12 twice as likely as non-obese children to become obese adults.
13 *Whereas* the school environment plays an influential role in the
14 foods children eat nearly everyday. While the United States

15 Department of Agriculture (USDA) regulates the nutrient content
16 of meals sold under its reimbursable meal programs, similar stan-
17 dards do not exist for “competitive foods” that are sold outside
18 the USDA meal programs. Competitive foods are often high in
19 added sugar, sodium, or saturated and trans fat.

20 All food items sold or provided within any public school,
21 during school hours, must meet nutritional standards appropriate
22 to a healthy diet for a child.